

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
11 RYE STREET  
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT 06088**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

**Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

Members Present:	Jason Bowsza, Joseph Pellegrini, Danelle E. Godeck, Jerilyn Corso, Marie DeSousa, and Kathleen Pippin
Members Absent:	None
Alternates Present:	Paulette Broder and Sharon Tripp
Alternate Absent:	None
Others:	Catherine Cabral, Dale Nelson, Denise Menard, and Richard Pippin
Press:	None

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Jason Bowsza called the Special Meeting to Order at 7:08 p.m., in the East Windsor Town Hall.

**II. Discussion of Public Presentation of Proposed Budgets for Fiscal Year 2012-2013**

Chairman Jason Bowsza indicated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the presentation of the proposed budgets for fiscal year 2012-2013 to the public. Ms. Catherine Cabral, Treasurer, wanted to explain a question which was posed at the hearing last night regarding the Board of Education budget and the MBR. She wanted to make clear that according to the auditors the beginning budget starts with the budget voted on by the voters for 2011-2012 and the added appropriation of the MBR is considered the adjusted budget. The tax base and mill rate is compared budget to budget and the difference is the MBR. The Board of Education has been given an appropriation this year and it is a recurring appropriation, which is usually different than a usual appropriation which usually is not recurring, only one time. She commented that if the budget fails three times, the beginning balance number is increased by \$105,000 due to the MBR appropriation which is required by the State of Connecticut. It was mentioned by Ms. Godeck that if the budget fails three times, the 2% increase is automatically put into place. She is not sure if the public understands that the State of Connecticut dictates to the Town regarding the MBR and the Town has no choice. Ms. Cabral remarked that if the budget does fail and the default 2% increase is triggered, the budget which the 2% is based upon is the budget as of June 15, 2012

and the Board of Education would automatically begin at \$19,512,000. Mr. Bowsza wanted to make sure that if the ECS grant monies increases, then the MBR requirement increased unless there is a decrease in student enrollment. Ms. Cabral gave to all Board Members a sheet explaining the latest update regarding the increase of ECS monies to the Town of East Windsor. Mr. Bowsza commented that he was aware of this conditional community funding. Additional funding is being given by the State of Connecticut for the 30 lowest performing school districts and East Windsor happens to be on that list unfortunately.

A discussion was held regarding the MBR, the requirements of same, and how to explain this subject at the public hearing.

Mr. Bowsza asked Mr. Pellegrini if he would be comfortable explaining the MBR issue at the public hearing. Mr. Pellegrini agreed. Mr. Bowsza also commented that Dr. Teresa Kane, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Chris Mickey, Chairman of the Board of Education will be present and make their presentation of their budget at the meeting. They will be available to answer any questions which may be asked at the hearing regarding the MBR issue. It was asked where the public hearing will be held on March 22, 2012. It was confirmed the hearing is scheduled to take place at the Town Hall.

The conversation continued on exactly how the Board would like to present the budget, explain the expenditures and revenues and try to explain the budget simply; not using confusing numbers, but bullet points. Mr. Bowsza explained this initial hearing is for the Board to receive feedback from the taxpayers on what direction they want the budget to go. The second public hearing is scheduled before the referendum. It was suggested the presentation to include a brief introduction, MBR issue presented by Mr. Joseph Pellegrini, Board of Education presented by Chairman Mickey, Town Government by First Selectwoman Denise Menard and revenues discussed by Chairman Bowsza. He indicated each presentation can be done in fifteen minutes or less. The public will be able to make statements to the Board, there will be a sheet for their names and addresses and there will be a limited three minutes to make their statement. Mr. Bowsza reminded the Board Members that this hearing is not to take questions, but to listen to the taxpayers and their suggestions. Copies of the slide presentation of the Board of Education and Town Government were given to the Board Members for their review.

A lengthy discussion was held. It was ultimately decided on using certain slides, dating and number the pages, posting the proposed mill rate increase, and showing expenditures and revenues.

The discussion continued regarding if the budget fails three times and the default 2% budget goes into effect. Ms. Cabral explained that according to the attorney's interpretation of the Charter, all lines would revert back to the budget as is on

June 15, 2012. Many transfers would have take place. The Board began discussing the projected revenues and how much tax revenue, based on the old grand list, would have to be raised in order to support the proposed budget.

A lengthy discussion was held.

It was ultimately determined how the presentation would take place. The presentation will include a brief introduction, Town Government presentation by First Selectwoman Denise Menard, MBR issue presented by Mr. Joesph Pellegrini, Board of Education presented by Chairman Mickey, and revenues discussed by Chairman Bowsza. At the end of the presentation, the public will be able to give statements of their suggestions to the Board.

### **III. Adjournment**

It was **MOVED** (Godeck) and **SECONDED** (Pippin) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Finance adjourns the March 15, 2012 Special Meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz  
Recording Secretary